

the dynamism of the American dream that is going on in our capital markets today. If you have money, you go ahead and participate, and we will encourage you. We will provide tax incentives for you to do that. But if you are lower income and you are making ends meet and all you have for your retirement is Social Security, sorry, we will not allow you. It is too risky for you to do this." How paternal; how discriminatory.

What we support is to give every working American a very small piece at first. Maybe in years to come it will be larger, but at first a very small piece of the American pie, 2 percent, 3 percent of every dollar they earn for low and middle-income people to be put in a personal retirement account for them to invest; so as America grows and prospers, they won't be sitting on the sideline watching the rich get richer while they do not prosper from the growth in America. That is cruel.

We have an opportunity to reach out to moderate and low-income individuals and allow them to participate in the American dream of ownership, of investment, of participating in the growth of America, not just their own growth with respect to their wages. I think it is a tremendous opportunity. It is the first and biggest chance to bridge what I see as one of the biggest problems facing America today, which is the growing gap between the rich and the poor in this country.

I will never forget back in 1992, then-candidate Clinton would talk about the decade of greed of the 1980s, how the rich got richer and the poor didn't get it. "The 1980s, under Reagan, was the decade of greed." We don't hear President Clinton talking about that now. Does anybody ever wonder why he doesn't talk about that anymore? The reason he doesn't talk about it anymore is because during the 1990s, the rich got far richer than they did in the 1980s, and the poor didn't do that much better than they did in the 1980s. In fact, the gap between the rich and the poor widened more in the 1990s than it did in the 1980s. If the 1980s was the decade of greed, the 1990s, under the Clinton-Gore administration, was the decade of supergreed.

Why did that happen? It is pretty obvious why it happened. It happened because those who were wealthy, who owned and invested as the markets went up, as the value of assets went up, their income went up. Their wealth went up. If you are a worker who doesn't have wealth, doesn't have savings, doesn't have investment, then your wealth only goes up by the wage increase you get, which is 3 or 4 percent. So while the NASDAQ goes up or the Dow Jones goes up 10, 15, 20 percent or higher, your wages go up here at the bottom 2 or 3 percent, the gap grows.

One-third of all income in this country comes from investment. Yet the av-

erage person in America, someone right in the middle, has a total savings of \$1,385. Half of America or more is left behind.

What we want to do with personal retirement accounts for Social Security is say to those Americans: Welcome to the American economy; participate in the American dream of growth and ownership of investment. With that, we will not only fix Social Security, but we will begin to do something that is fundamental, which is to bridge the wealth gap in America.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, will the Chair advise the Senate with regard to the standing order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 4 minutes remaining in morning business.

SECURITY BREACH AT LOS ALAMOS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, America awakened in the last 24 hours to another very distressing disclosure of an alleged breach of security practices at the Los Alamos Laboratory, again relating to what is the greatest threat every hour, every minute of the day to this Nation; that is, from nuclear weapons. We are not here to prejudge any facts at the moment.

From the standing rules of the Senate, rule XXV, I read:

The Committee on the Armed Services has jurisdiction over national security aspects of nuclear energy.

Clearly, this problem falls within our domain. As chairman, in consultation with the ranking member, we will move very swiftly. We will establish a hearing date as soon as we can to develop those facts that can be publicly disclosed and such facts as must remain classified. The Armed Services Committee has dealt with this issue for over a year. In the authorization last year, we had a hard fought debate on this floor about establishing a new entity within the Department of Energy. Indeed, we did it. It was signed into law, and it is ready to go.

Our committee also has jurisdiction over the nominees to head this new entity. I refer the Senate to item 1010 in Nominations, Gen. John H. Gordon, United States Air Force, to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, Department of Energy. That was May 24.

I am writing a letter to the majority leader today and, indeed, to the distinguished Democratic leader, asking that this nomination be brought up immediately. There are allegations that certain Senators think that the law that was passed last year has to be changed. That is a matter that can be brought up before the Senate at any time. But I do not think this Nation should sit 1 minute, 1 hour, 1 day longer on the

nomination of this outstanding American, who has impeccable credentials, to take over this whole problem of security in the Department of Energy and is waiting to do so. Let us act on this nomination. I am certain the distinguished majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, will move to see that this is done at the earliest opportunity. I hope it is done today.

I will advise the Senate later today with regard to the hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

This is a matter of serious concern. At the hearing, we intend to call Secretary Richardson, General Habiger, who is the Chief of Security Operations, and Mr. Ed Curran, Chief of Counterintelligence. It may or may not be a counterintelligence matter. We don't want to prejudge the facts. But action is needed by this body, first on the nomination, and then to look into this situation. There is nothing that poses a greater threat to the United States of America, indeed, to our allies, than that from nuclear weapons.

It is ironic. This particular alleged security breach is basically in the same location of the previous incident involving Wen Ho Lee, as I understand it, probably the same floor, same corridor. We have testimony in the record, which I will add to the record, of the Secretary of Energy, who has appeared repeatedly before the committees of the Congress. This incident is clearly on Secretary Richardson's watch; let there be no mistake about that. He has repeatedly advised the Congress that he has put in place such regulations and other measures as to protect the United States, protect this Department from such alleged security breaches it faces this morning.

Mr. President, I am speaking after consultation, of course, with the majority leader's office and Senators DOMENICI and KYL, who have worked with me on this matter for some 18 months.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 4576, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4576) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Boxer/Reid amendment No. 3308, to prohibit the use of funds for the preventative application of dangerous pesticides in areas